

## Comprehensive Services

### PA 196 of 2014, June 24, 2014

*Sec. 32d(4) To be eligible for funding under this section, a program shall prepare children for success in school through comprehensive part-day, school-day, or GSRP/head start blended programs that contain all of the following program components, as determined by the department:*

- (a) Participation in a collaborative recruitment and enrollment process to assure that each child is enrolled in the program most appropriate to his or her needs and to maximize the use of federal, state, and local funds.*
- (b) An age-appropriate educational curriculum that is in compliance with the early childhood standards of quality for prekindergarten children adopted by the state board.*
- (c) Nutritional services for all program participants supported by federal, state, and local resources as applicable.*
- (d) **Physical and dental health** and developmental screening services for all program participants.*
- (e) Referral services for families of program participants to community social service agencies, **including mental health services**, as appropriate.*
- (f) Active and continuous involvement of the parents or guardians of the program participants.*
- (g) A plan to conduct and report annual great start readiness program evaluations and continuous improvement plans using criteria approved by the department.*
- (h) Participation in a school readiness advisory committee convened as a workgroup of the great start collaborative that provides for the involvement of classroom teachers, parents or guardians of program participants, and community, volunteer, and social service agencies and organizations, as appropriate. The advisory committee annually shall review **and make recommendations regarding** the program components listed in this subsection. **The advisory committee also shall make recommendations to the great start collaborative regarding other community services designed to improve all children's school readiness.***
- (i) The ongoing articulation of the kindergarten and first grade programs offered by the program provider.*
- (j) Participation in this state's great start to quality process with a rating of at least 3 stars.*

### Guidance

Bolded language in PA 196 of 2014, above, strengthens understanding of providing comprehensive preschool programming to meet child and family needs. There are no additional grant requirements connected to Section 32d(4).

Department of Human Services, Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing requires that each enrolled child have up-to-date immunization record and record of a physical evaluation performed within the preceding year (or alternate parent opt-out documentation).

Legislative language clarifies that grant funds may support physical, dental and mental health services. GSRP can provide an important role in coordinating health services with families. Staff can help determine whether each family has a source of funding for needed health services and can work together to seek sources of funding, ways to inform community health providers about the health needs of low income families, work with agencies to determine a child's eligibility for medical assistance and ensuring that referrals for physical and dental health needs are followed-up on.

Language related to the school readiness advisory committee elevates the importance of the committee within local great start collaborative systems-building activities, with consideration to broadly support the development of all young children in the region.